(b) No, Sir. Orders for 1037.5 wagons in terms of four wheelers have been placed for manufacture in 1994-95. and

(c) Does not arise.

Computerised Reservation Centre at Jalandhar

2222. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 5771 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 1994 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in regard to the establishment of Computerised Reservation Centre at Jalandhar Junction in Punjab;

(b) the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is expected to be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) About 60 percent of the work involved including procurement of equipment, hiring of channels etc., has been completed.

(c) The facility is likely to be introduced at Jalandhar in the current financial year.

Driverless goods train from Birpur towards Bangalore

2223. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a driverless goods train travelled quite a lot from Birpur towards Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the circumstances in which the train was given clear signal and whether any responsibility has been fixed for this incident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) On 9.7.94, in Birpur station yard on the Arsikere-Hubli section of Mysore Division of Southern Railway, a shut down diesel locomotive with 16 wagons was temporirly immobilised. However, the shunting load rolled down due to a falling gradient towards Arsikere and travelled about 12 kms. without any driver and with no signals. The load stopped between Kadur and Devanur stations, after reaching a rising gradient. The inquiry committee has fixed responsibility on 6 (six) railway staff.

Railway Claims Tribunals in the Country

2224. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of benches of Railway Claims Tribunals in the country;

(b) the number of posts of Judicial Member lying vacant in these benches;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these posts;

(d) whether it is a fact that interview for selection of Judicial Members for these benches were held in January, 1994;

(e) if so, whether the appointments have been made in pursuance of these selections and if not the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when these appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Nineteen.

(b) Two posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and 14 posts of Member (Judicial) are vacant.

(c) to (f) The vacancies of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and Member (Judicial) were advertised in December 1992 and June 1993. Eligible candidates were interviewed in December 1993 and January 1994. Panel recommended by the Selection Committee has been approved. Offers of appointment for 2 Vice-Chairman and 11 Members have already issued and they have been requested to join by 31.8.94. Remaining offers will be issued on completion of formalities.

Operation of Luxury Tourist Trains

2225. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan to involve the private sector in the operation of five luxury tourists trains;

(b) which are the proposed routes of the five luxury trains and by what time the proposed luxury trains are expected to become operational; and

(c) what will be the Railway's initial expenditure on these trains and how much annual profit is expected to be earned by the Railways from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have invited bids from Public and Private Sectors for ownership; Marketing and Management of Tourist Trains on the following routes:

1. Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Gwalior - Jhansi - Varanasi - Lucknow - Delhi.
2. Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore - Mysore - Hospet - Bangalore - Goa (Madgoan).
3. Bombay - Aurangabad - Nanded - Secunderabad - Hyderabad - Pune - Bomba ;.
4. Howrah - Gaya - Varanasi - Gorakhpur - Bhubaneswar - Puri - Howrah.
5. Bangalore - Mysore - Madras - Kodaikanal Road - Kanya Kumari - Trivendrum - Cochin - Mettupalayam - Bangalore.

In response to the global invitation to bid issued by the Ministry of Railways; twenty three bids were received upto the closing date i.e. 25th July; 1994. The bids are now being evaluated by the Tender Committee for awarding the contract to the successful bidder. Lead time for construction and launching of the tourist trains will be one year from the date of finalisation of contract. No expenditure is being incurred by the Railways as the capital cost and cost of haulage and maintenance is to be borne by the Tourist Train Operator. Besides these costs, the successful bidders will also be required to share a minimum 15 per cent of their gross turnover from the operation of the tourist train service.

..Reduction in working expenses..

2226. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan alongwith economy messures undertaken by the Railways in 1993-94 has resulted in reduction of working expenses to the tune of Rs. 200 crores during the year; and

(b) if so; the details of the measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) From 1989-90 onwards